[30th September 1955

Bridge over Matlai stream in South Kanara

* 2593 *Q.*—Sri M. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) the present stage of the construction of the bridge over Matlai stream of Mangalore-Cheruvathur coastal road in Kasargod taluk, South Kanara; and

(*b*) when the work is likely to be completed and declared open for public transport?

The Hon. Sri R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI : (*a*) & (*b*) The main bridge including approach road on Payyanur side has been completed and the work on approach on Cheruvathur side is in progress. The bridge is likely to be opened for traffic by December 1955.

Sri M. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR : May I know the estimated cost of the bridge?

The Hon. Sri R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI : Rs. 78,000.

Private-hostels for Scheduled and Backward classes

* 2594 *Q.*—Sri N. RAMAKRISHNA AYYAR (on behalf of Sri V. K. Ramaswamy Mudaliar) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it has come to the knowlede of Government that private individuals running hostels for students belonging to Scheduled Caste and Backward Classes are doing so for their own benefit and that many of them are not giving the students proper food; and

(*b*) the steps taken by the Government to control their management?

The Hon. Sri B. PARAMESWARAN : (*a*) No, Sir. But the Director of Harijan Welfare has in the course of his tours noticed that the food given in a few hostels was not quite sufficient.

(*b*) The Director of Harijan Welfare is examining the question of changing the management of the hostels.

Sri M. DHARMALINGAM : Sir, the improper maintenance of many of these hostels by several managements is being noticed by the Director of Harijan Welfare and the District Welfare Officers and their staff but they are not in a position to take necessary action against the managements because of the political influence of those managements. Will the Government consider the desirability of taking over such hostels and maintain them properly?

The Hon. Sri B. PARAMESWARAN : Sir, I do not know what the hon. Member means by " Political influence " of the managements of the hostels. I may, however, tell the hon. Member that an honorary Inspector is being appointed to inspect